(b) After the imposition of President's Rule in Assam, 2766 ULFA activists have been arrested.

(c) and (d) There has been improvement in the law and order situation in Assam. The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has not sent any communication addressed to the Government of India on the subject.

Talks with Mr. Mann and other militant groups

848. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a move has been initiated to revive political process in Punjab;

(b) whether any talks in this regard have been held with Shri Simranjit Singh Mann; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that some talks are going with any of the militants groups of Punjab, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Government have publicly indicated their willingness to talk to any-one to find a solution to the Punjab problem without compromising the integrity and unity of the country and the basic principles of the Constitution. The talks held by the Prime Minister with Shri Mann in December, 1990 were a step in that direction. From the militant Groups however, there has been no formal response.

ULFA readiness to solve Assam problem amicably

849. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) regarding their willingness to respond positively to any constructive steps towards a peaceful solution to the problems of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government propose to take to create conducive atmosphere for implementation of their proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Government offer to meet Khalistani delegation

850. SHRI CHIMAN BHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered to meet *Khalistani delegation* at the place of their convenience and there occurred a secret meeting between Mr. Mann and Minister of State for Home;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demand for self-determination for Punjab was put forward in Shri Simranjit's Memorandum presented to the Prime Minister and what was the on the spot answer of the Prime Minister to this demand; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that greater number of casualties have taken place in Punjab compared to the toll taken in communal violence in the last three months, if so, what are the comparable statistics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have publicly indicated their willingness to talk to anyone to find a solution to the Punjab problem without compromising the integrity and unity of the country and the basic principles of the Constitution. The talks held by Prime Minister with Shri Mann were a step in that direction. There was, however, no agenda for the meeting nor was any commitment made. The Memorandum submitted by Shri Maan at that time did not make any reference to Article 51 of the Constitution. Any further discussions in this regard will be open.

(c) There was no communal violence in Punjab and therefore no comparison is possible.

Backlog of unemployed

851. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is the expected backlog of unemployment at the end of the current and the ensuing plan and what would be the segment of educated unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): The rate of growth of 3 per cent per annum for employment over the 1990s, envisaged in the Eighth Plan Approach document, is based on the goal of achieving near full employment by 2000 A.D. Estimates of expected backlog of unemployment at the end of the Eighth Plan have not been made.

Bomb blast in Dehradun Bound DTC Bus near Duhai in Uttar Pradesh

852. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a powerful bomb ripped apart a Delhi-Dehradun bound DTC bus near Duhai village, Ghaziabad on 19th February, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of persons dead or injured due to bomb blast in the bus;

(c) whether Government have since investigated the clue behind this blast;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(e) the compensation paid by Government to the next of the kin in this blast; and

(f) whether police have arrested any culprits in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) The information is being obtained from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creation of National Reconstruction Fund

853. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to involve the voluntary organisations to come forward to help the nation tide over the present economic crisis, especially in the context of Gulf War;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the light of the above, Government propose to create a National Reconstruction Fund;

(c) if so, what would be its Modus-Operandi;

(d) the amount of contributions received, if any so far in the fund; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to encourage voluntary contributions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE